

I highly approve of his manly and fearless conduct in the administration of justice, and in checking neglect, and the careless discharge of duty on the part of his brother magistrates.

11 January 1854.

He did so in consequence of my instructions; and the accompanying copy of an address forwarded to me, and signed by all the freeholders in the colony except two, will show that his services were appreciated by those who have really an interest at stake in the colony, and that they did not think with the memorialists that the appointment of Mr. Cameron would endanger either their property or their personal safety, or that "he had acted with notorious and gross partiality" in the capacity of justice of the peace.

Those charges against Mr. Cameron are, I believe, without any foundation in truth. Any parties so aggrieved had a right to appeal to the Governor and Council for redress, a right which is well understood, and the people here are not slow in using it, yet no appeal has ever been made to the Council against any of Mr. Cameron's legal proceedings.

The memorialists, in stating that the appointment of Mr. Cameron was hurried through the Council in one day, are evidently in error, as you may observe by copy of the Minutes of Council held on the 20th day of September 1853, transmitted with my Despatch, No. 2, of the 7th January 1854, which will show that the inefficiency of the Justices' Court, and the establishment of a Superior Civil Court, as a protection to person and property, were the subjects discussed on that day, the 20th of September, and that the Council adjourned, without coming to a decision, till the following 23d of September, when the measure, as it now stands, was finally decided on.

Mr. Cooper's complaint of having been "betrayed into acquiescence with Mr. Cameron's appointment" is, therefore, as unreasonable as his weak and vacillating conduct was unseemly at a time when he was bound to support the measures of Council, knowing them, as he admitted, to be necessary for the proper administration of justice, and solely intended to promote the best interests of the colony.

I really do not understand what the memorialists refer to in the closing paragraph of that document, as no attempt has been ever made "to deprive them of their just rights, or to require the sacrifice of their dearest interests, or to exercise over them a lawless and arbitrary power."

They have not ventured to specify their "real grievances," nor the wrongs inflicted upon them, "nor the grievances under which they are deeply suffering," neither have they ever stated them to me. I have, therefore, come to the conclusion that those grievances are less real than imaginary, a conclusion strengthened by the present prosperous state of the country. The people, moreover, appear happy and contented, the frugal and industrious are rapidly improving their condition in life; there are no taxes nor public burdens, the laws are justly administered, the means of education are extending, intemperance is on the decrease, and crimes are almost unknown; in short, since the departure of the Rev. Mr. Staines and his coadjutor Mr. Swanston, I have not heard a complaint from any person in this colony, except in regard to the sale price of land, which seems to be the only real grievance affecting the colonists generally, and that grievance I have no power to redress.

Mr. Staines, unfortunately for himself, was a violent party man, who was prudent neither in his conduct nor associations; the affidavit of William Conolly, herewith transmitted, does not give an exalted opinion of his loyalty or attachment to his country, seeing he was using his influence to encourage Her Majesty's subjects to take lands on the Arto Islands, under the United States, thereby aiding and abetting the contemplated encroachments of that Government on Her Majesty's territories.

I have, &c.
(signed) James Douglas, Governor.

Enclosure 1, in No. 2.

Victoria, Vancouver Island,
11 January 1854.

Encl. 1, in No. 2.

May it please your Excellency,

I, W. R., the undersigned, holding landed property, or otherwise interested in the welfare of the colony of which you are Governor, beg leave to protest against the tenor of a petition